

WOMT Summary for March 27, 2012

WOMT met and discussed the following:

DOSS advice to WOMT and NMFS on Action IV.2.3 on OMR flow management to continue to target no more negative than -2,500 cfs OMR flows until there are 3 consecutive days of combined older juvenile Chinook loss density below 5.0 fish/TAF. If Monday's (3/26/12) and Tuesday's (3/27/12) combined loss densities are below 5.0 fish/TAF, the Projects may relax the OMR flows as early as Wednesday 3/28/12.

As for the Joint stipulation and technical memorandum in lieu of Action IV.2.1, per the process described in the tech memo, and the data provided by DWR, DOSS advises that, from April 1 to April 7, 2012, the Projects be managed to an OMR level of -1,800 cfs. The 5-day running average of OMR flow during this period shall be no more than 25% more negative than -1,800 cfs (i.e., -2,250 cfs). DOSS also advises that the OMR flow value should be rounded to the nearest 100 cfs in the positive direction.

NMFS accepts the DOSS advice, including the adjustment to the rounding process, and determines that the OMR flow of no more negative than -1,800 cfs from April 1-7, 2012, as measured by a 5-day running average that may not be more negative -2,250 cfs, is consistent with the intent and objective of OMR flow management, as provided in the technical memorandum. This OMR flow is within the range of between -1,250 and -3,500 cfs specified by the joint stipulation as the adaptive range for OMR during April 2012. NMFS determines that since the OMR flow for April 1-7, 2012, is consistent with the joint stipulation and associated technical memorandum, that it will avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of Central Valley steelhead.

The Smelt Working Group will continue to monitor smelt salvage, adult and larval smelt survey data and Delta hydrological conditions. The Working Group agreed that given their present distribution, low levels of salvage, and current Delta conditions, risk of entrainment of delta smelt remains low and therefore, the Working Group recommends that no change in operations is necessary to adequately protect delta smelt from entrainment. The Working Group also agreed that given their present distribution, existing constraining conditions was sufficient to protect longfin smelt.

Currently as of 3/27, the FWS and DFG deem that no additional actions are needed for protection of delta and longfin smelt.